

February 25, 1975

I will wait.

PRESIDENT: No, there is nobody. You have the privilege to close.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am going to ask you to listen very carefully because LB 18, I believe when you see its full implications, is one of the most significant bills to ever hit this Legislature and its significance is not in our passing it but in our recognizing what it is and then stopping it. Now what I am going to do is explain what the bill really does and what the law is now. Senator Koch, the other day, said, well, look, what's the big hassle. The State Board of Education already certifies these teachers so there is no big thing, no big change. At the present time, unlike other programs that are taught in our schools, for every student that goes through a qualified or certified driver's education program, the state pays to that school \$40 per head. Now this amount can be less, if there is less money in the pot. So I think Senator Simpson mentioned it is about \$30 but we are talking about a substantial amount per student that goes through this program. Now, in determining...in determining which schools are going to get that money, this Legislature saw fit to write into law that if they met certain standards, certain requirements, then they would get the money. Those standards, which I think Senator Dworak read involved so many hours of driver's education, so many hours of this and so many hours of that and a first-aid course. They are specific. Everybody can look at them and see them. The State Board of Education has no choice, no choice but to allow that money to be paid to those schools once a teacher has met those statutory qualifications and is teaching X number of students and, in effect then, by meeting those requirements and obtaining the money, the Board of Education automatically has to certify that teacher. OK, that's the way the law is now. You or I or the teacher or the school can know once they have met those requirements, the teacher has taught the students, that that money is going to be coming to the school and those students are going to be eligible for reduced insurance and all the other benefits. So what is the difference in the new law that is proposed. The difference is in, instead, I repeat, instead of having these specific and detailed requirements in the statute that we can all look at and know, that we are going to turn over the authority, the lawmaking authority to the Board of Education to write what requirements for getting the money are and, in effect then, what constitutes certification. But the bill deals with the funding and who decides what the requirements are for getting the money. So what we are being asked to do, in this bill, is to eliminate the laws, the funding program, the whole setup that this Legislature deliberated on and set into law that everybody knows and instead, turn over to a Department the authority, the law-making responsibility and, in effect, the funding authority for the whole driver's education program around the state. What are these standards that we are going to be asked to have, from the Board of Education. Neither Shirley Marsh nor Senator Barnett nor Jesus Christ, right now, can tell you what they are because once we turn over the authority, they can do whatever they want and they can change from year to year, day to day. They won't be laws. They won't be clear. They might end up like LB 403 where we say, here's a problem. Here's a program. You, State Board of Education, come up with all the laws and procedures and this kind of